



Biosolids

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Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the controlled treatment of sewage sludge. Because of that treatment, biosolids can be safely recycled and applied to farm fields for crop production as fertilizers for their nutrient value. While regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides education and technical assistance to farmers, locally elected officials, and other stakeholders on the use of biosolids as fertilizer for crop production.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The land application of biosolids at agronomic rates saves Michigan farmers more than \$12 million each year in fertilizer costs and reduces municipal sewage treatment waste disposal costs by \$7.9 million each year.

FY18 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 65,000 dry tons of biosolids were applied over farmland with a fertilizer value of \$8 million
- The creation of Biosolids Banners for Biosolids Displays
- The 2018 Biosolids Conference

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Biosolids applied (tons)	88,000	82,000	76,000	105,000	120,000	65,000
Biosolids application area (acres)	19,000	18,000	16,500	26,600	29,550	14,130
Nitrogen used as fertilizer (tons)	3,750	3,500	3,250	4,500	4,800	2,780
Phosphorus used as fertilizer (tons)	1,950	1,800	1,650	2,300	3,000	1,400
Potassium used as fertilizer (tons)	320	300	275	380	500	235
Farm value as fertilizer	\$11M	\$10M	\$10M	\$14M	\$15M	\$8.5M
Biosolids Conference Participants	103	88	80	60	-na-	105

*No conference in 2017

FY19 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Provide training to conservation district technicians on the beneficial use of biosolids so they can provide education and targeted technical assistance to farmers and local officials in their districts.
- Participate in MWEA Biosolids Committee Meetings, Activities, and the Biosolids Conference Subcommittee to plan the 2019 Biosolids Conference.
- Display at the MTA Annual Conference, MWEA/AWWA Joint Expo, Agro Expo, MACD Conferences, and similar events to promote and educate about beneficial use of biosolids.
- Work with Agro-Liquid staff to establish and maintain biosolids demonstration plot.
- Work with MSU Extension, MWEA and Michigan Farm Bureau to promote the beneficial use of biosolids.
- Develop new printed educational materials

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan livestock producers
- Rural non-farm neighbors
- Local governments
- Commodity organizations

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, Part 24 Rules and Part 31, as amended

